No raupatu in our time *(contd)*

the Breach" event, to enable support for the rights of local hapu to be expressed.

Network Waitangi believes it is outrageous that the Bill discriminates against Maori property owners, at a time when politicians are stressing the need for "one law for all". "Aboriginal, or native, title, is recognised in international law, as is the Maori text of the Treaty, which affirms the collective prop-erty and self-management rights of hapu, in its second article."

The fact that legal aid will not be granted to hapu to appeal provisions of the Act, is also a violation of the equal rights of all citizens promised in the Treaty's third article, the Rev. Cook said.

She said politicians have been wrongly asserting that Maori ceded their sovereignty to the Crown in 1840. "Nothing could be further from the truth. The contradictions between the English and Maori texts need to be more widely known. But international courts measure New Zealand's performance in terms of the Maori text, in which hapu ownership rights over their property is confirmed," she said. "The Waitangi Tribunal is the only mechanism the country has, to mediate between the two parties to the Treaty. The fact that it has already judged the proposal as breaching the treaty, means it is inevitable that successful claims will be made."

"The Bill is the last of many Acts, or raupatu, that have immorally taken prime Maori resources without recompense. It is time for non-Maori New Zealanders, tangata tiriti, to try to dissuade the Crown from further diminishing it, and our, mana."

Contact: Joan Cook (09) 436 0411

Sign the Tauiwi petition: www.converge.org.nz/pma/hksign.htm

Fallujah *(contd)*

mentality with Iraqis. Instead, the US public is fed bogus polls telling them half of Iraqis feel they are better off now with a year of occupation under their belts. That is an amazing figure, since nearly every one of the hundreds of Iraqis I interviewed throughout Iraq was understandably enraged at the 70% unemployment, less than 8 hours of electricity per day in Baghdad, water so terrible there are cholera outbreaks in southern Iraq, and a security situation that spirals further out of control on a daily basis.

About the only time it's easy to find Iraqis who are pro-occupation is if you let the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) show them to you, thus it's the journalists with the least initiative that find the rarest selections of public opinion by speaking to those pushing brooms or sitting at a desk at CPA HQ.

"Getting the facts in Iraq is not rocket science. I am simply doing my job to report the Iraqi side of the story. An informed citizenry forms the basis of a democracy. Not only are US citizens being deprived of access to information about the true nature of the critical situation in Iraq, they are being outright lied to by most of the corporate media outlets." **www. schnews.org.uk**

May Day! May Day!

Celebrate International Workers Day in Wellington! **Saturday 1st of May:**

12:15 pm Assemble at Cenotaph, Lambton Quay, for an anarchist/union/socialist march to Manners Mall and Civic Square.

2 to 5 pm Free concert in Civic Square. Food, stalls, fun and music by Brass Razoo, The Carnys, Choir Choir Pants on Fire, Don Franks, Dead Vicious, mr sterile Assembly, MC Dissident and the Deadline. Speakers include Mea'ole Keil (NCTU Komiti Pasefika), Susanna Ounei (Kanaki/New Caledonia), Min le Win (Burmese Trade Unions), Teanau Tuiono (Aotearoa Educators) and Carol Beaumont (NZCTU).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FREEDOM SHOP:

6:00 pm Meet at the Freedom Shop, 272 Cuba St. Music, games, prizes for best cake.

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No Raupatu in Our Time : Hikoi details : Wud'ja Falluja it! : Roger Awards : May Day! May Day!!

Hikoi website: www.aotearoa.wellington.net.nz/takutai

No raupatu in our time: Call for Pakeha to join hikoi

"It is vital that all peoples seeking peace and justice between cultures in Aotearoa support the seabed hikoi to Parliament." (The Rev. Joan Cook, spokeswoman for Network Waitangi Whangarei.)

The group backed the invitation, made by Hikoi organisers, for all cultures to join the march in Whangarei on Sunday afternoon.

Network Waitangi Whangarei is an independent Pakeha Treaty education group, active in the North for 16 years.

"However people choose to identify themselves, the issues are universal," Rev. Cook said. "Other property owners would not stand by while their riparian rights were removed by Parliament, and neither should tangata whenua."

"Northlanders have enjoyed the status quo - unfettered access to the beaches and marine resources of local hapu - for two centuries. We need to acknowledge that privilege rather than add to unresolved issues between the Crown and iwi in Tai Tokerau."

Supporters were urged to assemble near the garden centre at Springs Flat on Sunday at 3pm, to welcome the hikoi, and to attend the hui at the Polytechnic marae that night.

"This is a unique chance for Pakeha and Tauiwi to gain first-hand knowledge of what is at stake."

"Sunday is Anzac Day," she said, "a day to remember sacrifices made to protect New Zealanders' democratic rights, such as due process before the law, which is undermined by the introduction of this Bill."

The group is urging all who are lobbying Labour MPs to drop the "unjust, unfair, and unnecessary" Bill, and to support affirmative action policies. The group is also looking at a "Hands Across *(cont'd on back page)*

WGTN HIKOI DETAILS

Leave Newtown Park 7.30 am, Wed. 5 May; walk to the 9 am assembly point at Chaffers Park (near Te Papa) then march on Parliament.

Coming Activities:

Thurs 29 April: *Moana Jackson 'The Foreshore and Seabed Confiscation Legislation' 6-30 pm, Mezzanine Floor, Wellington Central Library.*

Sunday 2 May: *Kensington Garden Party, 1 to 5 pm, Kensington St.*

Saturday 15 May: *Fundraising dinner, Windymedia & Wgton Animal Action. St Johns conference centre, cnr Willis and Dixon Streets, 7 pm, $10/$6 waged/unwaged*

Wud'ja Falluja it!

"How can the media report this when they don't even have a correspondent in Falluja? Why are they failing so completely to report the Iraqi side of the story? How much more obvious can it be that they are only parroting the US military lies concerning the situation?" Dahr Jamail, Independent reporter

Remember the old Iraqi Information Minister nicknamed "Comical Ali" who amongst other things proclaimed the defeat of US forces even as they moved into Baghdad? Well now it's the turn of Comical Blair and Bush who denounce any Iraqi resistance to the invasion and occupation of their country as "outside terrorists, an extremist who has created his own militia, and remnants of a brutal dictatorship." While on the other side, they talk of "people of immense courage and humanity." (SchNEWS thinks Blair is talking about American and British soldiers!).

So while Secretary General Amr Moussa said at a meeting of the Arab League, that a US war on Iraq would "open the gates of hell" in the West we are being drip fed corporate news which Dahr Jamil, one of the only journalists who has been in Falluja since the siege, says is merely "parroting the US military lies". In Iraq they are told instead of watching the televised images "of Americans and coalition soldiers killing innocent civilians", to "change the channel" because these "are not legitimate news sources".

In fact it was one of those 'illegimate' news sources that helped precipitate this latest wave of resistance, with the closure of the al-Hawza newspaper. Shut down for reporting eyewitness claims that a supposed car bombing that killed numerous volunteers for the New Iraqi defense forces was actually done by an American helicopter. The newspaper also criticized the Coalition Authority leader Bremner, something which is not allowed in the new 'free' Iraq.

US officials are fighting more than just the people of Iraq, but a huge propaganda war to cope with the truth of their actions. The war in Iraq is indeed a war of media, where they use images like weapons to manipulate public opinion. The fact that Bush is facing elections in the US increases the importance of this manipulation.

On a televised speech, he asserted that the situation in Iraq was "not a civil war, not a popular uprising, and that most of Iraq is relatively stable." Old Comical Bush has obviously been watching too much CNN, because as the American author Rahul Mahajan explains "In general, there is no quicker way to get an Iraqi to laugh, than to talk about how the United States is bringing freedom or democracy to the country."

Statue of Liberty? Take Firdos Square where the infamous pulling down of Saddam's statue was stage managed. Independent journalist Dahr Jamail said "A few days ago it was closed and blockaded by the American military. I stood atop my apartment listening to a speaker blaring instructions that anyone who approached the area would be shot on sight. This is freedom."

A week earlier Iraqi soldiers, trained and controlled by coalition forces, had opened fire on a demonstration there. As the protesters returned to their homes in the poor neighbourhood of Sadr City, the US army followed with tanks, helicopters and planes, firing at random on homes, shops, streets, even ambulances. According to local hospitals, 47 people were killed and many more injured.

As Dahr Jamil angrily writes "It's no wonder the corporate media rarely reports on the torturing of many of the over 10,000 detained Iraqis by the US military, the constant home raids, or the infrastructure in nearly complete disrepair as we begin the second year of the occupation. For most of the corporate media tend to stick closer to their hotels, rather than where the stories are occurring and being lived every day - out amongst the Iraqi people. "The majority of the corporate media tend to go where the US military tells them it is safe to go, while donning their flak jackets, helmets, and the preferred 'us vs. they' *(cont'd on back page)*

And the winner is ... (Roger Award 2003)

(A look at the winner of the 2003 Roger Awards: Juken Nissho Limited. This article provides a background on the appalling practices of JN and why it was judged the 2003 winner.)

The judges have awarded the 2003 Roger Award to Juken Nissho (JN) – a company which operates wood processing plants in Kaitaia, Masterton and Gisborne and creates work for more than 1,000 New Zealanders nationwide. The reasons for the Award are JN's horrifying safety record in its plants and its arrogant disregard for the welfare of the Kaitaia community with the emissions from its triboard plant in the town.

The judges were staggered at the occupational safety and health record of JN which indicates 304 "events" (Lower Hutt 178, Napier 68, Whangarei 38, Palmerston North 7, Rotorua 1) from 1995 to 2003, including 269 serious harm notifications.

The OSH report reads like a war casualty list and, since its release, a worker was crushed to death at JN's Gisborne plant in April 2003. JN has 11 convictions under the Health and Safety Act - on average one conviction per year - with fines ranging from $6,000 to $10,000. Despite this, the company is not deterred and has not cleaned up its act.

At its Kaitaia plant, 50-metre chimneys pump out toxic plumes 24 hours a day. Neighbours have frequently complained of eye, nose, skin and respiratory tract irritations, asthma symptoms and itching as well of "feeling like a hangover". One family was forced out of its home. The company agreed to commission an assessment of the health effects on the Kaitaia community.

On this basis, Northland Health withdrew an appeal against a resource consent approved for JN by the Northland Regional Council. However, it took two years for JN to complete this report rather than the two months agreed initially. JN threatened Northland Health with legal action when they initially lodged the appeal.

Northland Health officials reported, "we had quite a lot of unpleasant correspondence from

the triboard mill – we were threatened with legal action. The Regional Council were unhappy as well with our stance in making that appeal."

Unsurprisingly, the in-house report gave JN a "clean bill of health". Unsurprisingly also, an independent reviewer found the report was a whitewash because it was not based on actual emissions.

In 1997, JN was prosecuted for exceeding resource consent emissions at its Kaitaia plant and is still under an abatement notice for the pollutants emitted. Evidence exists they have been buying out complainants.

Local residents have felt blackmailed by the threat that if the plant has to spend too much on pollution control it will close or relocate elsewhere and the local jobs will disappear. Residents have said, "without the mill we are buggered!".

JN is the "bully boy" of Kaitaia. They are using their position as a large employer in small communities with high unemployment to blackmail those communities into submission, despite well-founded fears for community welfare and worker safety.

Such a situation requires government intervention and the judges recommend that a public inquiry be held into the health and safety situation in Juken Nissho's plants, and into the community health impact of its Kaitaia operation.

Juken Nissho is a worthy winner of the Roger Award for 2003.

Campaign Against Foreign Control of Aotearoa (www. cafca. org.nz)